

OGC 69-1591

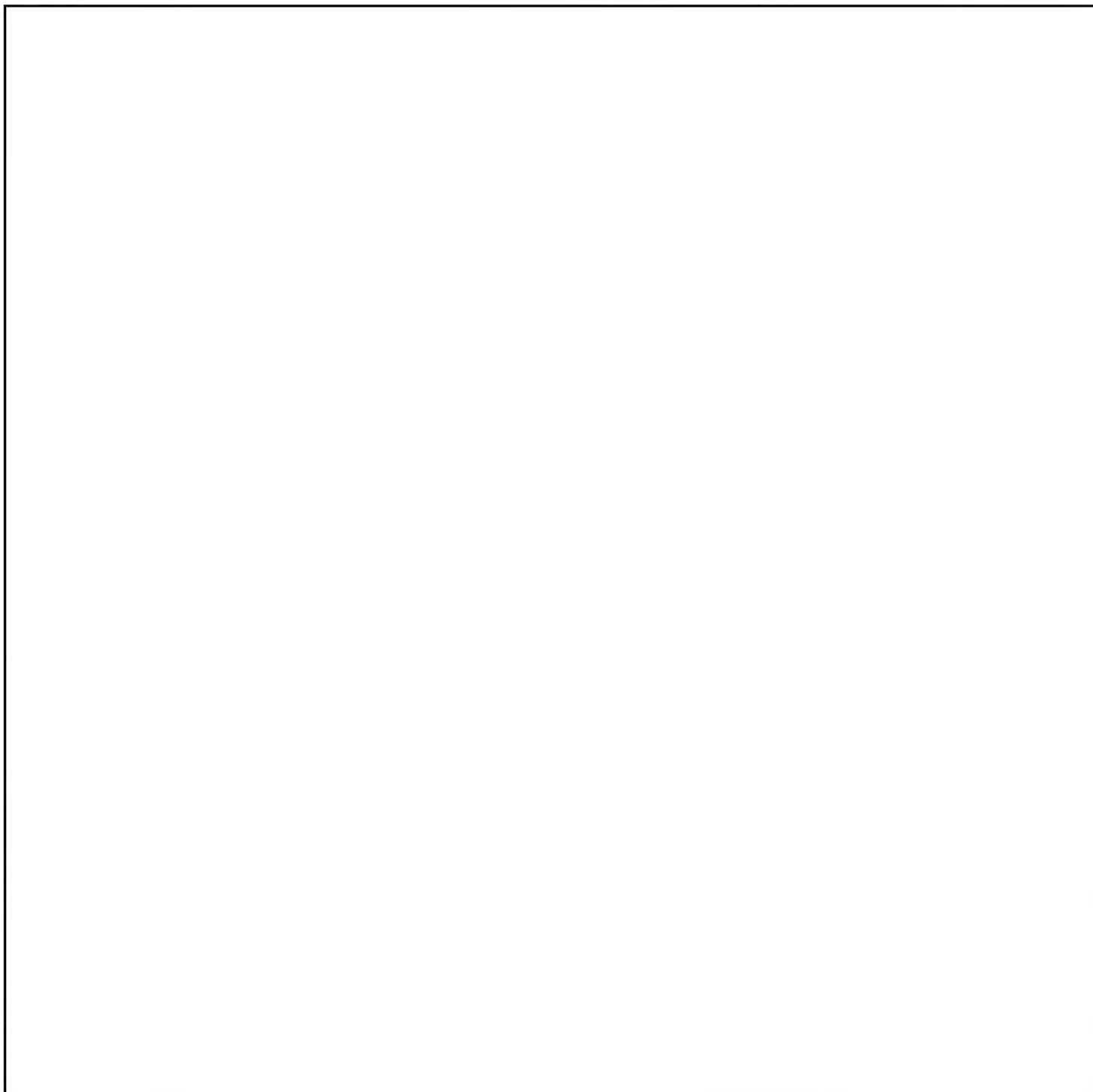
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SECRET

OGC SUBJ: CHUYEN THAI KHAC

25X1

18 August 1969



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I D E N T I T Y

GREEN BERET CASE IN SOUTH VIETNAM

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PRIORITY SAIGON

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1. PLEASE DELIVER FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM ME TO AMBASSADOR

BUNKER AND GENERAL ABRAMS.

DEFIN QUOTE 11

2. I SHOULD LIKE TO ASK FOR YOUR ASSISTANCE IN STEMMING THE WAVE OF MISINFORMATION, DISTORTION AND INNUENDO WHICH SEEMS TO BE INUNDATING THE STATE-SIDE PRESS IN CONNECTION WITH THE SO-CALLED GREEN BERET CASE. I REALIZE THAT THE SAIGON PRESS HAS BEEN RELATIVELY RESTRAINED UNTIL RECENTLY, BUT YOU SHOULD KNOW THAT THE STATE-SIDE PRESS HAS BEEN ACCUSING THE AGENCY OF THE MOST OUTRAGEOUS ACTS. THESE ACCUSATIONS DERIVE AND ARE ENLARGEMENTS UPON THE INFORMATION BEING PASSED TO THE PRESS BY THE DEFENSE ATTORNEY FOR ONE OF THE DETAINEES, SUITABLY AND LURIDLY EMBELLISHED WITH WHATEVER HE FEELS HE NEEDS TO SAY TO VILIFY THE AGENCY IN HIS EFFORTS TO IMPROVE HIS CLIENT'S CASE.

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3. I HAVE BEEN RELUCTANT TO GO TO THE PRESS WITH THE AGENCY'S POSITION ON THIS MATTER FOR OBVIOUS REASONS. I HAVE NOT WISHED TO MAKE ADDITIONAL PROBLEMS FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE. ONE OF MY OFFICERS DID MEET WITH SECRETARY OF THE ARMY RESOR AND HIS DEPUTY MR. BEAL ON 15 AUGUST TO DISCUSS THE ISSUANCE OF SOME STATEMENT IN SAIGON BY THE COMPETENT AUTHORITY REPORTING THE STATUS OF THE CASE AND INCLUDING ONE OR TWO BRIEF SENTENCES RELATING TO THE AGENCY. WE FOUND THAT THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAD ALREADY DRAFTED A MEMORANDUM FOR CORRESPONDENTS' FOR POSSIBLE ISSUANCE BY THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY ON THE CASE BUT THAT SUBSEQUENT TO ITS DRAFTING IT HAD OCCURRED TO THEM THAT IT WOULD BE PERHAPS IMPROPER FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY TO MAKE A STATEMENT ON THE CASE SINCE HE WAS IN THE REVIEWING AUTHORITY CHAIN. I RECOGNIZE THAT THIS WOULD BE AN INHIBITION ON HIM AND THE DISCUSSION WITH MY REPRESENTATIVE TURNED TO THE ADVISABILITY OF THE ISSUANCE OF A

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PAGE 3

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SIMILAR STATEMENT IN SAIGON. TO THIS MOMENT NO SUCH STATEMENT HAS BEEN FORTHCOMING.

4. THE TWO SENTENCES RELATING TO THE AGENCY WHICH WERE WORKED OUT WITH SECRETARY RESOR AND MR. BEAL FOR INCLUSION IN SUCH A GENERAL STATEMENT READ AS FOLLOWS: 'ALTHOUGH THE CIA IS PROVIDING FULL COOPERATION TO THE INVESTIGATING AUTHORITIES IN THE CURRENT INQUIRY, ON THE BASIS OF EVIDENCE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE ALLEGATIONS AND SPECULATION SUGGESTING COMPLICITY OF THE CIA IN THIS MATTER ARE UNFOUNDED. THE CIA IS OF COURSE GENERALLY AWARE OF THE CLANDESTINE INTELLIGENCE COLLECTION OPERATIONS OF THE 5TH SPECIAL FORCES IN VIETNAM.' I STRONGLY BELIEVE THAT THE TIME HAS COME FOR THE MAKING OF SUCH A STATEMENT BY AN AUTHORITATIVE OFFICER IN SAIGON IF THE AGENCY IS NOT TO BE UNFAIRLY PILLORIED BY LEAKS AND DISTORTIONS DERIVING APPARENTLY FROM OFFICIAL ARMY RECORDS.

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5. I SOLICIT YOUR ASSISTANCE IN THIS MATTER BECAUSE I FEEL SURE THAT YOU WOULD AGREE WITH ME THAT WE SHOULD NOT ALLOW THE DEVELOPING CAMPAIGN AT THE AGENCY'S EXPENSE TO GO UNCHECKED. I AM MINDFUL OF SOME OF THE DIFFICULTIES IN GETTING SOME KIND OF STATEMENT PUBLISHED PROMPTLY BUT I HOPE AND TRUST THAT THESE CAN BE OVERCOME. END QUOTES

END OF MESSAGE

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